

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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AID-05 IGA-02 SS-15 /045 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4740
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USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2439

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, BL
SUBJ: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BANZER ON MARCH 31 HE SAID THAT HE CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN HAVING THE U.S. ACCELERATE THE DELIVERIES OF MAP FINANCED EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIVE TIPOS. PRESIDENT BANZER IS AWARE THAT THIS FISCAL YEAR CONCLUDES THE FINANCING OF THE TIPO EQUIPMENT AND IS ALSO AWARE THAT UPWARDS OF \$5 MILLION OF MATERIEL REMAINS TO BE DELIVERED. HE SAID THAT HE WISES FOR PROMPT DELIVERY SO THAT BOLIVIA WILL NOT BE CONFRONTED WITH THE PHENOMENON OF RECEIVING EQUIPMENT IN THE FUTURE AT A TIME WHEN EARLIER DELIVERED EQUIPMENT HAS BECOME OBSOLETE. HE INDICATED THAT HE PLANNED TO RAISE THIS WITH GENERAL MCAULIFFE DURING HIS VISIT TO BOLIVIA APRIL 11 TO 15.

2. I ASKED PRESIDENT BANZER WHAT HIS PRESENT THOUGHTS WERE AS TO THE USE OF THE FY 1977 FMS CREDIT OF \$12 MILLION. HE SAID THAT HIS PRELIMINARY DECISION, WHICH WILL BE CONFIRMED SOON, IS TO REQUEST THE USE OF THAT CREDIT FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE CIVILIAN-MILITARY HOSPITAL. HE SHOWED MANY STUDIES THAT HE HAS ORDERED
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TO ASSIST HIM IN MAKING A DETERMINATION AS TO THE LOGIC OF USING THE CREDITS FOR THIS HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE.

3. I ASKED PRESIDENT BANZER IF HE WOULD BE KIND ENOUGH TO INDICATE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY VALIDITY TO RUMORS CIRCULATING IN LA PAZ THAT AN ARMY MISSION

PRESENTLY IN EUROPE HAS CONCLUDED PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. I SAID THAT ANOTHER RUMOR
IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT WISH TO SPEND UP TO
\$200 MILLION ON MILITARY PURCHASES. PRESIDENT BANZER
STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE RUMORS WERE COMPLETELY
FALSE. HE SAID THE MISSION TRAVELING ABROAD HAS NO
AUTHORIZATION TO CONCLUDE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS AND
IS VISITING IN EUROPE IN RESPONSE TO INVITATIONS FROM
THOSE GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT IN GOOD
CONSCIENCE COMMIT LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY FOR
MILITARY PURCHASES AND THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD
HIS COUNTRY AFFORD \$200 MILLION IN SUCH OUTLAYS.
NEVERTHELESS HE SAID THAT BOLIVIAN MUST PURCHASE SOME
ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT. WHILE HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT,
HE DID SAY THAT IT WOULD BE MINIMAL AND HE HINTED
THAT ARTILLERY MIGHT BE HIS FIRST PREFERENCE.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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